

REMARKS

The Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider this application in the light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. AMENDMENTS

Throughout the specification and claims of this application, the terms "disk-like", "bar-like", "ring-like", "plate-like form", and "plate-like" have been changed to --disk-shaped--, --bar-shaped--, --ring-shaped--, --plate-shape--, and --plate-shaped--, respectively. No new matter is introduced by the foregoing amendments.

II. THE REJECTIONS

A. 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claim 3 because the term "spaced apart flange portions" recited in this claim, line 3 is a double recitation of the flange portions recited in Claim 2, line 10. The term "spaced apart flange portions" has been deleted from Claim 3. Accordingly, it is believed that this rejection has been overcome, insofar as it relates to Claim 3.

The Examiner also rejected Claims 16-30 for the reason that the feature "said first actuating shaft has first and second end portions, said first end portion of said first actuating shaft being rigidly or fixedly connected to said first end portion of said supporting shaft" recited in Claims 16-30, lines 1-4 is a double recitation of claim 1. Applicants submit that the above-quoted recitation in Claims 16-30 is not a double recitation of any feature set forth in Claim 1. Following is a side by side comparison of the phrase objected to by the Examiner and the phrase in Claim 1 that the Examiner appears to be referring to.

Claim 16

said first actuating shaft has first and second end portions, said first end portion of said first actuating shaft being rigidly or fixedly connected to said first end portion of said supporting shaft

Claim 1

said first actuating shaft being rigidly or fixedly connected to said first end portion of said supporting shaft

In view of the differences in the subject matter described in the two phrases, it should be clear that the phrase in Claim 16 is not a double recitation of the phrase in Claim 1. Claims 17-30 contain a phrase that is identical to the above-quoted phrase from Claim 16. For all the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the rejection of Claims 16-30 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, based on a double recitation of a claimed feature is improper.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite the examination of this application, the phrase "said first actuating shaft has first and second end portions, said first end portion of said first actuating shaft being rigidly or fixedly connected to said first end portion of said supporting shaft" in Claims 16-30 has been amended to read --said first actuating shaft has third and fourth end portions, said third end portion of said first actuating shaft being rigidly or fixedly connected to said first end portion of said supporting shaft--. Accordingly, it is believed that this ground of rejection has been overcome.

III. THE ALLOWED CLAIMS

The Examiner indicated that Claims 2-15 and 17-30 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 16, 18-21, 23-26, and 28-30 have been amended to overcome the rejections based on 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to include all the features of Claim 2. Accordingly, Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Claim 2 and Claims 7, 12, 17, 22, and 27 which depend from Claim 2 either directly or indirectly have been cancelled. All the remaining claims depend from Claim 1 either directly or indirectly, and therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is believed that Claims 1, 3 to 6, 8 to 11, 13 to 16, 18 to 21, 23 to 26, and 28 to 30 of this application are in condition for allowance. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application in the light of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,
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